

REMARKS

1. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.
2. Claims 1, 2, 4-26, 48-53, 92-94, 96, 97, and 99-101 are pending in the application.
3. Claims 1, 2, 4-26, 48-53, 92-94, 96, 97, and 99-101 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful suggestions for bringing the claims into allowance that were provided in the last Official Action.

Independent claims 1, and 48, have been amended by adding the recitation that the water heater tank is: "capable of heating said makeup water to a temperature sufficient to inactivate selected organisms and provide purified water". This change is found at line 7 of Claim 1, line 7 of Claim 48. Antecedent is found at page 23, line 11 through page 24, line 16.

Independent claims 93 and 99 have been amended by adding the recitation that the water heater tank is: "capable of heating said makeup water to a temperature sufficient to inactivate selected organisms and provide treated water". Antecedent is found at page 23, line 11 through page 24, line 16, and at page 22, lines 1 through 3. Claim 92 has been amended by requiring both the tank and auxiliary heater to aid in the inactivation. Further antecedent for Claim 92 is found in Figure 32, sheet 19/23, and page 49, line 10 through page 50, line 13. Claim 92 has also been amended at line 4 by changing the "heater and makeup" to "heater to makeup". This wording is found in the following lines 5 and 6. This change is consistent with the discussion at page 50, lines 7 through 11.

Claim 99 has also been amended at line 6, by changing "purified" to "treated". This makes the claim internally grammatically consistent, since treated is used throughout the claim in place of purified.

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected for not having an antecedent for "dip tube. The appropriate reference for a dip tube has been added. Antecedent is at Figure 9, sheet 4/23, item 205; and page 34, lines 3 through 15.

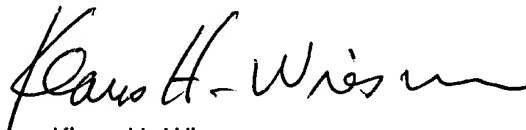
Claims 51 and 52 stand rejected because they were worded to be method steps, but are dependent on apparatus claims. The wording of the claims has been amended to provide apparatus limitations in that the water purifier is capable of heating the makeup water. Claim 51 has been amended to clarify that "makeup" water is heated. Antecedent for these changes is found at page 23, line 11 through page 24, line 16.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments traverse the grounds for rejection and the claims now appear allowable. The remaining claims not specifically mentioned are dependent on the rejected claims. Therefore these likewise appear allowable as they now depend on allowable claims.

4. The present response is being submitted on or before December 9, 2003. Applicant PETITIONS for an extension of time of three months. The appropriate fee for a small entity is enclosed with the fee form.

In light of the amendments and remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that the present application appears to be fully in condition for allowance; therefore, allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. Applicant's undersigned attorney has made a good faith effort to meet the concerns expressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. If the Examiner still has some issues with the application, and has any suggestions as to how to address them, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the phone number given below, so that those issues can be worked out.

Respectfully submitted,



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